

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges: Degree Options for Servicemembers



**DANTES Services
Workshop**

Pensacola, FL

18 August 04

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)



SOC, established in 1972, is a consortium of national higher education associations and over 1800 institutional members.

Functions in cooperation with the Department of Defense, the Military Services including the National Guard, and the Coast Guard to help meet the voluntary higher education needs of servicemembers.

SERVICE MEMBER SUPPORT COLLEGE

Sponsoring Organizations

American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of Community Colleges



Cooperating Organizations

American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Council on Education
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Career College Association
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Distance Education and Training Council
Education Commission of the States
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
State Higher Education Executives Officers

U.S. Air Force	U.S. Army	U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Navy	U.S. Marine Corps	National Guard Bureau
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense		

SOC Principles

- **Servicemembers share the same educational opportunities available to their civilian counterparts**
- **Educational programs that are provided by appropriately accredited colleges and universities**
- **Educational programs that are flexible in terms of scheduling, academic residency, course transfer, and acceptance of non-traditional credit**

SOC Criteria for Membership

- **Reasonable with Transfer of Credit**
 - Minimum loss of previously earned credits
 - Avoid coursework duplication
- **Reduced Academic Residency Requirements**
 - 25% maximum for most programs
 - 30% for schools providing undergraduate degrees 100% online
 - No final year or semester requirement
- **Credit for Military Training and Experience**
 - Award credit for military service schools
 - Recognize and Use *ACE Guide* in evaluating military training experiences
- **Award Credit for Nationally Recognized Testing Programs**
 - Award credit for at least one nationally recognized testing program such as CLEP (General and Subject exams), DSST (DANTES Standardized Subject Tests), ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)

Responsibilities of SOC Institutional Representatives

Responsible for implementing and overseeing institution's compliance with SOC Principles and Criteria

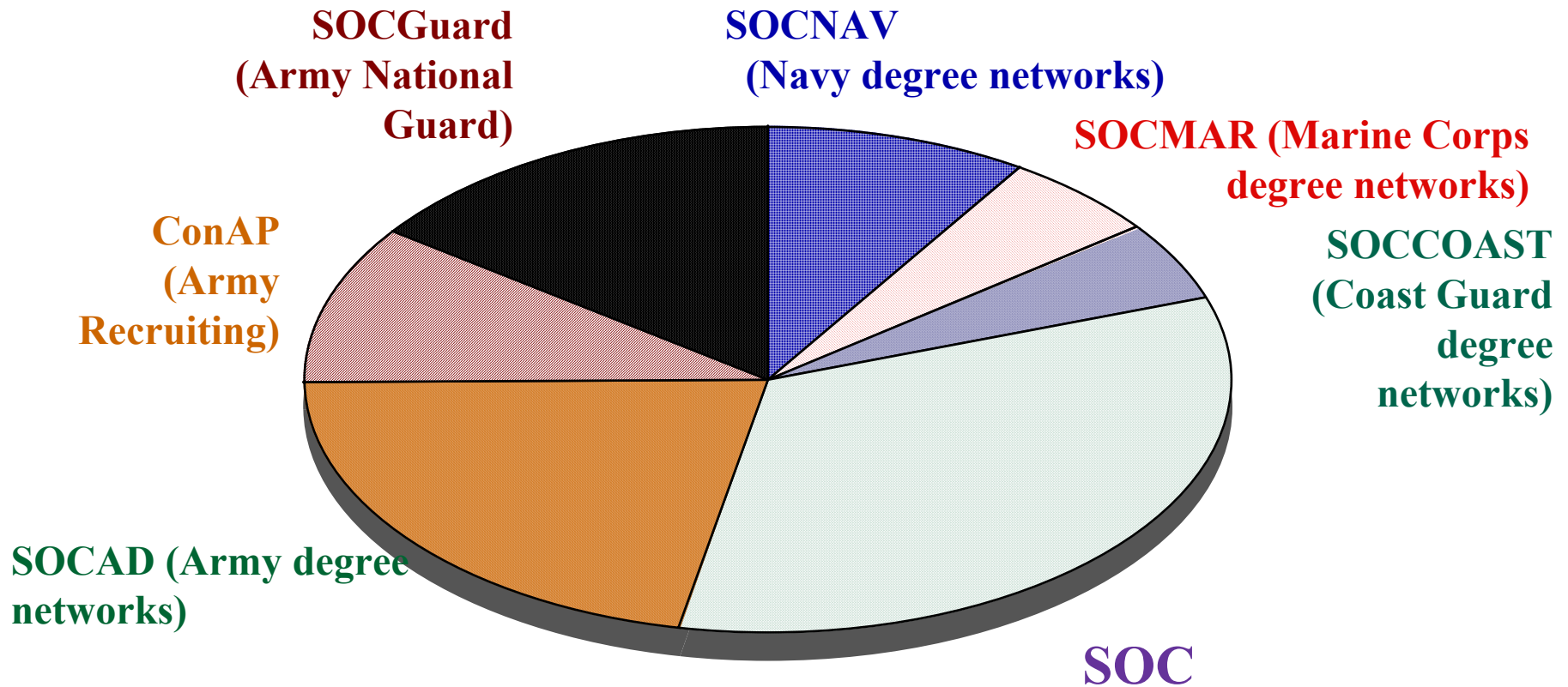
- Serve as institutional point of contact for college information to servicemembers, veterans, and their family members**
- Serve as chief institutional advocate for servicemembers' education**
- Working knowledge of your institution's transfer and evaluated credit policies**
- Keep senior institutional leadership apprised of issues affecting education of servicemembers**

Responsibilities of SOC Counselors

Responsible for advisement of military students participating in programs under SOC designation

- Read and understand SOC Principles and Criteria**
- Possess working knowledge of your institution's transfer and evaluated credit policies**
- Be able and available to counsel servicemembers, veterans, and their adult family members regarding your institution's educational programs and services**

SOC's Organizational Components



Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
1307 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 800-368-5622; 202-667-0079; Fax: 202-667-0622

What is ConAP?



Joint Program Between:

- Army Recruiting Command**
- Participating ConAP colleges**
- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)**

Goals:

- Increase enlistment of college-capable men and women
who are postponing or delaying completion of college**
- Increase number of Army veterans and Reserve soldiers
enrolled in college**

SOCGuard Support to ARNG Education



- **Higher Education Advice and Liaison**
- **College Outreach**
 - College workshops
 - Campus visits
- **College Partnerships with the ARNG Education Support Center**
 - Memoranda of Agreement
 - SOC Network colleges
- **Training**
 - ESOs
 - Recruiting and Retention force
- **Marketing Guard Education Programs**

All About SOC on CD



- **SOC History**
- **SOC Guide**
- **SOC Brochure**
- **SOC Application**
- **SOC Principles and Criteria**

SOC Degree Network Program: Degree Options for Mobile Military Worldwide

- **Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
coordinates a far-reaching program of
associate and bachelor's degrees for services—
SOCAD, SOCNAV, SOCMAR, and
SOCCOAST.**
- **In most cases, SOC degree network programs
are also available to family members of active-
duty servicemembers.**

SOC Degree Networks

- **Began with 2-year level with Army**
- **Currently 2- and 4-year programs for Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard**
- **188 colleges and universities**

SOC Degree Networks

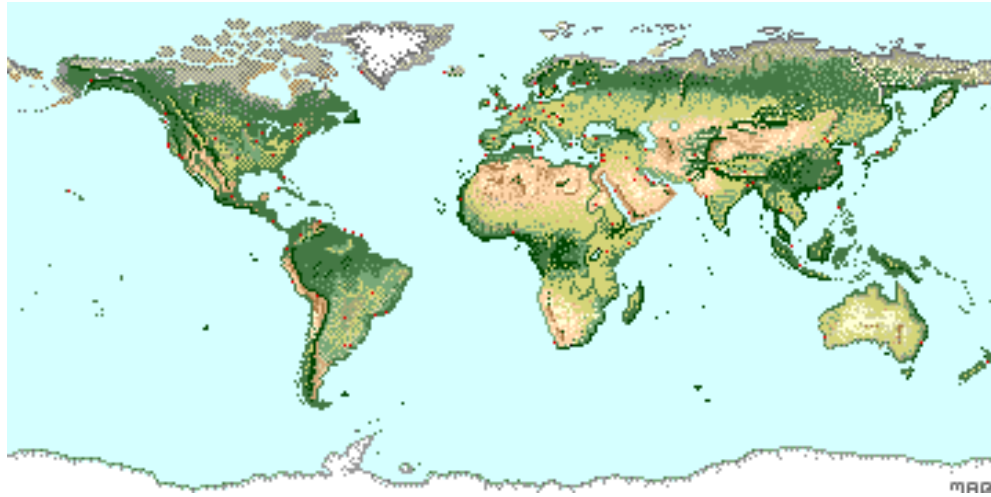
... at the Associate Degree Level

Accounting	Food Service Management
Air Conditioning/Heating Refrigeration	General Business
Allied Health Technologies	General Studies
Applied Science & Technology	Information Systems Management
Association Management	Interdisciplinary Studies
Business Administration	Management
Computer Studies	Marketing/Retailing
Construction Technology	Office Management
Criminal Justice	Nuclear Technologies
Dietology	Paralegal Studies
Electronics Technology	Technical Management
Fire Science	Welding

... at the Bachelor's Degree Level

Accounting	Human Resource Management
Applied Science and Technology	Information Systems
Association Management	Management
Association Technology	Interdisciplinary Studies
Banking Finance	Management
Business Administration	Marketing/Retailing
Computer Studies	Office Management
Criminal Justice	Professional Aeronautics
Education/Instructional Development	Public Administration
Fire Science	Technical Management
Health Services Management	

Degree Network Educational Delivery Modes



Traditional—classroom-based instruction (optional acceptance of Distance Learning and Learning Assessment)

Distance Learning—instruction offered through independent study; delivery format may include correspondence coursework, telecourses, video cassettes, or web-based courses (optional acceptance of Learning Assessment)

Learning Assessment—composite evaluation of prior educational and work experiences, degree management, generally few or no courses offered by the home college (accepts Traditional and Distance Learning options)

How a College Becomes a SOC Degree Network Member

- **Be an institutional member of SOC**
- **Demonstrate to cognizant Service's satisfaction that institution's coursework is generally accepted by other accredited institutions**
- **Be selected by for inclusion in networks based on educational needs of installation and Service-wide contracts/MOUs**

Degree Network Member Responsibilities

- **Provide Student Agreement — “Contract for Degree” and formal evaluation**
- **Award credit for service schools and military occupational experience where appropriate to degree**
- **Participate in guaranteed two-way course transfer system among member institutions**
- **Annually update courses, curricula, college information, and locations for inclusion in *Handbooks***
- **Provide annual graduates report**

Differences Between SOC Membership and SOC Degree Programs

SOC Membership

- Academic residency limited to 25%
- Accept credits for at least one nationally recognized testing program
- *ACE Guide* credit recommendations for training (Service schools)
- Reasonable transfer
- General evaluation and degree planning

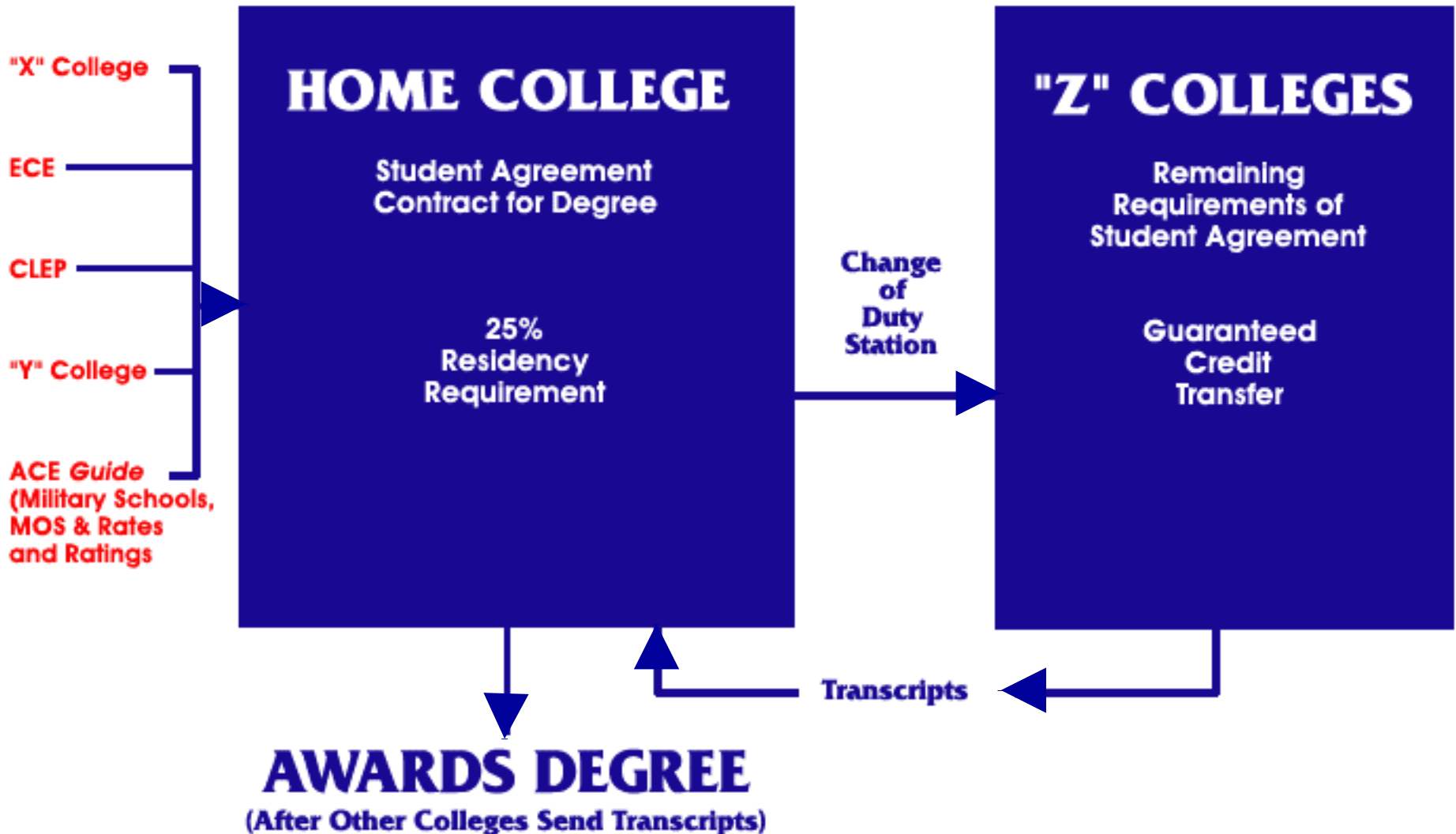
Degree Network Membership

- Same
- Same
- *ACE Guide* credit recommendations for military experience and training (Service schools)
- Two-Way Guaranteed transfer of specific courses
- Formal evaluation of prior learning/degree planning tool in form of the SOC Student Agreement
- SOC Degree network participation—SOCAD, SOCMAR, SOCNAV, SOCCOAST

SOC Degree Network Concepts

- **HOME COLLEGES** ... issue servicemembers Student Agreements, incorporating a thorough evaluation of prior learning and a degree plan; graduate the servicemember when he/she completes residency and remaining degree requirements.
- **CURRICULUM NETWORKS** ... similar curricula from various SOC degree network colleges grouped by academic area.
- **COURSE CATEGORY CODES** ... provide a way to organize comparable courses whose descriptions are exchanged and approved by all the networked colleges. Servicemembers can take approved courses from any participating network school and have their acceptance guaranteed at the home college.
- **TRANSFERABILITY TABLES**... list comparable courses by SOC Course Category Code that are guaranteed to transfer among SOC degree network institutions without individual prior approval.

SOC's Degree Network Process



SOC Degree Network

Student Agreement

CONTRACT FOR DEGREE

Other Degree Requirements (residency, GPA, etc.):

Was AARTS/SMART Transcript used to prepare this form?
Yes ____ No ____

Signed/dated by college official:
Student Signature (optional):

Was AARTS/SMART Transcript used to prepare this form?

Yes _____ No _____

Signed/dated by college official:

Student Signature (optional):

[illegible]

✓ Clearly portrays remaining requirements for degree completion

SOCNAV Student Agreement

SOCNAV-2: []

SOCNAV-4: [X]

Also— NCP Dist Lrn Program: []

NCPACE Program: []

Privacy Act Statement: The home college is authorized to transmit a copy of this Agreement and periodic academic progress reports to appropriate U.S. military voluntary education offices and to Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC). Consistent with the requirements of the current Federal Privacy Act, the college will not release any information to outside parties without the written permission of the student. Disclosure of all personal information, including Social Security Number, is voluntary. However, failure to do so may result in the applicant not being able to participate in this SOC degree program.

College: Park University
SOC Network: Management
Degree Title: BS-Management

Student Name: I.M. Sailor
Social Security Number: 123-45-6789
Branch of Service (or "Family"): Navy Active
Rank: E-8 Rating: ISCS Years of Service: 19
Military Installation: Mid-South NSA, TN

Signature of College Official: *I.M. Registrar*
Name of College Official: I.M. Registrar

Date: 6/9/03
Title: Associate Registrar

Student Signature (optional):

Other Degree Requirements (residency, GPA, etc.):

Semester Hours: [X] Quarter Hours: []

The home college should retain two copies of this Agreement and provide one copy each to the student, the student's Education Services Office, and the SOC office. Send SOC's copy to Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges; 1307 New York Avenue, N.W.; Fifth Floor; Washington, DC 20005-4701. Telephone: (800) 368-5622 or (202) 667-0079.

Agreement is binding **only** when signed by an authorized college official.

Degree Requirements			Credit Hours Awarded									Hours Still Needed	SOC Course Cat. #	Notes
Course Number	Course Title	Reqr'd. Hours for Degree	Resident	Transfer	Service School	Rating	CLEP	D331	ECE	Cert. Exam	Other			
AC 201	Principles of Accounting I	3										3	AC001B	
AC 202	Principles of Accounting II	3										3	AC001B	
CS 140	Introduction to Computers	3				3						0	CS001B	NER-ISCS
EC 141	Principles of Economics (Macro)	3		3								0	EC002B	CTC
EC 142	Principles of Economics (Micro)	3		3								0	EC002B	CTC
EC 301	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3	3									0		
EN 105	Writing Strategies and Concepts	3					3					0	EN024B	71056
EN 106	Writing Purposes and Research	3		3								0	EN025B	CTC
EN 306	Professional Writing	3	3									0		
MA 120	Basic Concepts of Statistics	3	3									0	MH053B	
MA 131	College Algebra	3										3	MH048B	
MG 101	Introduction to Management	3				3						0		NER-ISCS
MG 260	Business Law I	3						3				0	BU002B	SE534

Understanding the SOC Course Categories and Categorization Process

- **Original course category system development—academic experts chosen by SOC**
 - **Academic subject areas**
 - **General education**
- **Course category assignments by SOC**
 - **Based on course descriptions in college catalogs**
 - **Syllabi review of expected outcomes, course objectives**
- **Course circulation process**
 - **Home college approval**
 - **Peer review approval**
- **Transferability tables**

Mapping College Courses to SOC Course Category Codes

- **Based on course description summarized in college catalog (or course syllabus when catalog description is less than complete)**
- **Course content, not title determines whether it matches generic SOC Course Category description**
- **Other factors considered:**
 - **departmental prefix**
 - **level (upper/lower)**
 - **credit hours**
 - **full-year sequence versus one-semester survey**
 - **specified requirements (e.g., # of papers written)**

Deciphering the Course Category Code

Example: EC002A

- **Two-letter prefix indicates subject area**
Example: EC=Economics
- **Three-digit number identifies specific category**
topic: Principles of Economics
- **Appended single letter signifies the degree-**
related category: A=Associate
B=Bachelor

Category Subject Areas By Prefix

Subject Area Prefix

**EN=English Language
and Literature**

**HM=Hospitality
Management**

Category Sub-Areas

- **English Composition**
 - **British Literature**
 - **World Literature**
 - **Written Business Communications**
 - **Technical Writing**
-
- **Introduction to Food Service**
 - **Nutrition**
 - **Food Purchasing**
 - **Computer Systems in HM**
 - **Hospitality Law**

When are Courses Circulated for Peer Review?

- **A new college has joined a SOC degree network program.**
- **SOC has developed new course categories for a new or existing network.**
- **SOC has reviewed and/or refined the content of existing course categories.**
- **Additional courses have been identified for possible inclusion into the Transferability Tables through the addition or revision of college curricula.**

SOC's Balancing Act...

- **Subject matter experts develop new course categories based on existing degree programs offered to military**
- **College membership voluntary, not contractual**
- **Peer review of courses critical to the addition of new courses and creation of new categories**
- **Pacing college mailings for new college members and added course categories important so we don't overload the system-sensitive to academic/administrative workloads**

SOC Degree Networks CD



- Set of 8 SOC Degree Network *Handbooks*, 2- and 4-year
- Student Agreement Instructions (step-by-step guide for colleges)
- Student Agreement Templates:
SOCAD SOCCOAST
SOCNAV SOCMAR

SOC Degree Programs Credit Evaluation Supplement

**Companion publication to be used with the SOC degree
network *Handbooks* and *ACE Guide***

- **Credit evaluation guide for college advisers and counselors.**
- **Maps *ACE Guide* credit recommendations to appropriate SOC Course Category Codes, where applicable. Encourages evaluators to map *ACE Guide* credit recommendations to degree requirements rather than to “free electives.”**
- **Available on the SOC Web site (<http://www.soc.aascu.org>), as printed document, and on CD-ROM.**

***ACE Guide* Course Exhibit for : AR-1403-0013**

PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Course Number: Version 1: 500-75F10/75F10 (ST). Version 2: 500-71F10.

Location: Version 1: Soldier Support Institute, Ft. Jackson, SC; Soldier Support Institute, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN.
Version 2: Adjutant General School, Ft. Jackson, SC.

Length: Version 1: 8–11 weeks (240–370 hours). Version 2: 8 weeks (308 hours).

Exhibit Dates: Version 1: 10/85–4/98. Version 2: 5/98–Present.

Learning Outcomes: Version 1: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to identify the components of a personnel information system, identify errors in the system and take corrective action, enter data, and review personnel system output reports. Version 2: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to enter, retrieve, and organize personnel data.

Instruction: Version 1: Classroom and practical exercises cover the use and operation of a microcomputer and entering, processing, and retrieving data in a personnel information system. Version 2: Classroom and practical exercises cover the use and operation of a microcomputer and entering, processing, and retrieving data in a personnel information system.

Credit Recommendation: Version 1: In the vocational certificate category, 1 semester hour in personnel record keeping; in the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 1 semester hour in microcomputer applications and 1 in keyboarding (9/96). **Version 2: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in records management, or database management, and 3 in introduction to computer (3/02).**

Related Occupations: 71F; 75F.

***ACE Guide Online Web site:* www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/**

Example: How *SOC Degree Programs Credit Evaluation Supplement* Maps *ACE Guide* Credit Recommendations to SOC Course Category Codes

Credit Recommendation for *ACE Guide* Course Exhibit for : AR-1403-0013

PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST:

Version 1: In the vocational certificate category, 1 semester hour in personnel record keeping; in the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 1 semester hour in microcomputer applications and 1 in keyboarding (9/96). **Version 2:** In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in records management, or database management, and 3 in introduction to computer (3/02).

- 1. For each credit recommendation listed in the *ACE Guide* (or see the *ACE Guide Online* at www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/), look up a specific credit term in the *SOC Degree Programs Credit Evaluation Supplement***
- 2. The *Credit Evaluation Supplement* will list specific SOC Course Categories related to each ACE credit term, as applicable.**
- 3. For the term ‘records management’ in above *ACE Guide* recommendation, the term would be mapped to the following:**

**OF012A Records and Information Management
Office Management Electives**

Example: SOC Course Categories Related to ACE Subject Areas

- **records and ADP information management**
 - AH012A Medical Records Management and Supervision**
 - OF012A Records and Information Management**
 - Office Skills and Technology Electives**
- **records and cost control** **Construction Electives**
- **records maintenance**
 - OF012A Records and Information Management**
 - Office Skills and Technology Electives**
- **records management**
 - OF012A Records and Information Management**
 - Office Skills and Technology Electives**
- **records/information management**
 - OF012A Records and Information Management**
 - Office Skills and Technology Electives**
- **records/inventory management**
 - OF012A Records and Information Management**
 - Office Skills and Technology Electives**

SOC's Degree Network System Summary

- 1. Student Agreement - “Contract for Degree”**
- 2. Guaranteed Transfer of Courses**
- 3. Blending of Traditional and Non-Traditional Credit**
 - **College Courses**
 - **Tests (CLEP, DSST, ECE)**
 - **Military Credit (Service Schools, MOSs, Rates and Ratings) □**
- 4. Two- and Four-Year Degrees**
 - **SOCAD-2 and SOCAD-4 for the Army**
 - **SOCNAV-2 and SOCNAV □ □ -4 for the Navy**
 - **SOCMAR-2 and SOCMAR-4 for the Marine Corps**
 - **SOCCOAST-2 and SOCCOAST-4 for the Coast Guard**

Contact Us



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